



Date: January 28, 2015

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Mark D. Ahrendsen, Director of Transportation
Subject: Contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. (PB) for the Development of the Regional Freight Plan

Executive Summary

The purpose of this item is to enter into an agreement with Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. (PB) for the development of the Regional Freight Plan. The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO), the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) are jointly developing a Regional Freight Plan. The purpose of the freight plan is threefold: To conduct a comprehensive regional study of freight, goods movement, and services mobility needs; to develop a framework to proactively address freight and goods movement mobility needs and challenges in our region; and to examine all modes of a freight transportation system with emphasis on trucks, rail and air cargo and to develop freight recommendations for the 2045 joint Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The work associated with the development of the Regional Freight Plan will be undertaken through consulting services. Proposals to provide the Regional Freight Plan development services were solicited by the City. Staff reviewed the proposals to determine the firms' respective strengths and qualifications and, as a result, selected PB.

The total project cost is \$399,994.00. NCDOT is providing funding for up to 50% of the project costs and CAMPO will provide funding for up to 30% of total cost. The City share of the \$399,994.00 project is \$79,998.80 or 20%. The City share of \$79,998.80 will be funded with 80% federal funds and 20% local matching City funds. The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) designated federal funding to use toward the development of the Regional Freight Plan. This project has been approved by the MPO Board and is included in the approved FY 2015 DCHC MPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Recommendation

The Department of Transportation recommends that City Council authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. for the development of the Regional Freight Plan in an amount not to exceed \$399,994.00.

Background

The DCHC MPO, CAMPO and the State of North Carolina must carry out a continuing, comprehensive and cooperative process of transportation planning to maintain eligibility for federal transportation funding. As part of this process, the City of Durham, in its capacity as

Lead Planning Agency for the DCHC MPO, has participated actively in the planning update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Also, federal regulations require the DCHC MPO to address freight related factors in collaboration and coordination with NCDOT, CAMPO and other regional stakeholders.

The Triangle region is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation according to the latest US Census figures. The region has significant and growing logistics clusters and transportation and logistics related employment. As a result of the strategic role the region plays in the nation's freight system, identifying and programming effective improvements to accommodate increasing freight, goods, and services movement in the Triangle is critical to the region's economic vitality and quality of life. The development of a data-driven, policy-based Regional Freight Mobility Plan for the Triangle region is essential to the identification and prioritization of improvements that accommodate mobility of both people and goods while mitigating the negative impacts on congestion, safety and communities.

The development the Regional freight Plan is a joint effort by DCHC MPO, CAMPO and NCDOT. The total project cost is \$399,994.00. This project has been approved by the MPO Board and is included in the FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Proposals to provide the Regional Freight Plan services were solicited by the City. Two firms responded to the request for qualifications: Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) and Moffatt & Nichol. The selection process consisted of review and scoring of the proposals by the Selection Panel. The selection panel reviewed the proposals and scored them based on the evaluation factors provided in the request for qualifications. Based on the highest scores, the panel determined that PB was the most qualified and consequently recommended the selection of PB.

Issues and Analysis

The development of the Regional Freight Plan will meet the federal metropolitan transportation planning requirement that calls for the DCHC MPO to address freight factors in its planning process and long range transportation plan. The purpose of the proposed plan is to establish a foundation for understanding freight-based mobility needs. Freight initiatives from the plan will help the MPO to improve transportation efficiency and safety, reduce congestion, enhance mobility and better manage traffic.

The City can accept or reject the proposed contract by approving or not approving the attached contract between the City and PB. If approved, the study is scheduled to begin in March 2015.

Alternatives

- Authorize the City manager to execute the agreement with PB in an amount not to exceed \$399,994.00.
- Do not authorize the execution of the Agreement. The proposed Regional Freight Plan development will not be undertaken.

Financial Impact

The total cost of the Regional Freight Plan is \$399,994.00 of which NCDOT is contributing 50%, the City of Raleigh is contributing 30% and the City of Durham is contributing 20% or \$79,998.80. Eighty percent (80%) of the City's funding has been allocated by the DCHC MPO from federal STP-DA funds, which the City of Durham may disburse in its capacity as

Lead Planning Agency for the MPO. The remaining twenty percent (20%) or \$15,999.76 of the funding is available within the Department of Transportation's operating budget.

SDBE Summary

SDBE Requirements are not applicable to this agreement.

Attachments

1. Professional Service Contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) for the development of the Regional Freight Plan.